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Document No. 4217
ATHLETIC COMMISSION
CHAPTER 20

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 40-1-70 and 40-81-70

20-27.01 through 20-27.23. Mixed Martial Arts

Synopsis:

The South Carolina Athletic Commission adds Regulations 20-27.01 through 20-27.23 to provide for mixed martial arts requirements.

The Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on October 28, 2011.

Instructions:

Subchapter 27 is added as provided below.

Text:

SUBCHAPTER 27
Mixed Martial Arts

20-27.01. Definitions.

(A) Brazilian jiu-jitsu: Also known as "Gracie Jiu-Jitsu", is a martial art developed in Brazil by the Gracie family during the mid-20th century. Originally based on the Japanese martial art of judo as it existed before WW II, it has since developed into an independent system with a major emphasis on ground fighting and grappling. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(B) Cage: A fenced enclosure in which some promotional organizations hold mixed martial arts competition. A fenced enclosure may have four (4) but not more than eight (8) sides.

(C) Choke: A submission technique which restricts blood flow in the carotid arteries, resulting in a competitor either tapping-out or losing consciousness. Some of the most frequently employed chokes are the guillotine choke, rear-naked choke, leg triangle choke and the arm triangle choke.

(D) Fish-hooking: The action of hooking (grasping) and pulling the inside of an opponent's cheek so as to control his/her head movement. This is illegal.

(E) Freestyle wrestling: An Olympic grappling sport which permits contestants to attack their opponent above and below the waist, these techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(F) Gi: The traditional uniform worn when practicing aikido; jujitsu; judo; and karate, may not be worn in mixed martial arts events.

(G) Grappling: Techniques of throwing, locking, holding, and wrestling, as opposed to kicking and punching. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(H) Greco Roman wrestling: An Olympic grappling sport in which all holds are applied above the waist in an attempt to throw the opponent. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(I) Ground and pound: A MMA term which describes the barrage of strikes delivered by the contestant who is in his/her opponents guard or in the mount position.

(J) Guard: A basic position in which one competitor lies on his back with their knees bent and legs open. If their opponent is between their legs, the opponent is in their guard. Depending upon the leg position of the fighter on their back, the guard is refereed to as being an open, closed, half, butterfly, spider, or rubber-band guard.

(K) Hammer-fist: A strike with the small finger side of the fist, as if holding a hammer.

(L) Judo: Meaning gentle way, it is a grappling art created by Jigoro Kano. Based on the techniques of jujitsu. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(M) Judoka: Judo practitioners.

(N) Jiu-Jitsu: Also written as jujitsu, ju-jitsu, and jujutsu. Meaning gentle art, a traditional Japanese self-defense that includes kicking, striking, kneeing, throwing, choking and joint locks. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(O) Kickboxing: Adapted from Muay Thai, it is a striking sport which permits punches, kicks, and knees. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(P) Mixed martial arts: A general term that describes the convergence of techniques from a variety of combative sports disciplines including boxing, wrestling, judo, jujitsu, kickboxing and others. "MMA" techniques can be broken down into two categories, striking and grappling.

(Q) Mount: A basic position in which a competitor gains top position and controls their opponent by sitting on top of them in the full mount position, or from the side of the opponent in the side mount.

(R) Muay Thai: Known as Thai boxing, it is the national sport of Thailand. It is a pure striking art in which blows are delivered with the hands, feet, knees and elbows. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(S) No-holds-barred: An erroneous description and characterization of the sport of mixed martial arts.

(T) Octagon: A fenced enclosure in which some promotional organizations hold MMA competition.

(U) Pankration: Meaning all strength or all power, this is an ancient style of Greek wrestling and boxing in which kicks, throws, and joint locks were used. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(V) Passing the guard: This is a term that describes a fighter's attempt to escape from his/her opponent's guard in order to secure the mount position.

(W) Shoot: A wrestling technique wherein a competitor attempts to capture his/her opponent's legs and takes him/her off his/her feet. These techniques may be used in mixed martial arts events.

(X) Spike, Spiking: After lifting and inverting an opponent, attempting to slam him/her headfirst into the canvas. This is illegal.

(Y) Sprawl: A defensive wrestling technique employed to block and counter an opponent's shoot.

(Z) Strikes: A cumulative number of punches administered by a contestant to his/her opponent.

(AA) Submission: A grappling technique which forces a contestant to tap-out. Techniques include chokes, and the hyperextension or over-rotation of a joint.

(BB) Tap-out: The physical act of tapping the opponent, the mat, or one's self to signal a submission. When unable to physically tap-out a submission can be vocal.

20-27.02. Conducting mixed martial arts events.

(A) "MMA" is a general term used to identify a mixed martial arts event that describes the convergence of techniques from a variety of combative sports disciplines including boxing, wrestling, judo, jujitsu, kickboxing and others.

(B) All contests and exhibitions of mixed martial arts must be conducted under the supervision of the South Carolina Athletic Commission, unless otherwise provided by 40-81-445.

(C) This includes all professional and amateur mixed martial arts events.

20-27.03. Requirements for mixed martial arts contestants.

(A) Amateur contestants:

(1) The minimum and maximum ages for amateur contestants in South Carolina are 18 to 35 years old. No person shall compete in an amateur MMA event after reaching 35 years of age.

(2) Must submit a completed state approved application with the appropriate fee.

(3) Must submit a completed annual physical signed by a medical doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) along with blood work for the detection of Hepatitis A and B, and HIV.

(B) Professional contestants:

(1) The minimum and maximum ages for professional MMA contestants in South Carolina are 18 to 35 years old. The maximum age may be waived by majority vote of the Commission for a specific contestant. A waiver to participate as an over-age contestant shall be valid for the duration of the current licensure period.

(2) Must submit a completed state approved application with the appropriate fee.

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(3) Must submit a completed annual physical signed by a medical doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) along with blood work for the detection of Hepatitis A and B, and HIV.

(C) Amateur contestants who want to turn professional:

(1) Must be between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. (The maximum age may be waived by majority vote of the Commission for a specific contestant. A waiver to participate as an over-age contestant shall be valid for the duration of the current licensure period.)

(2) Must submit a completed state approved application with the appropriate fee.

(3) Must submit a completed annual physical signed by a medical doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO).

(4) Must have updated (within one (1) year of the date of contest) blood work for the detection of Hepatitis A and B, and HIV.

(5) Must have fought in at least six (6) sanctioned amateur fights and have won 75% of his/her sanctioned fights.

(6) Once a "Pro" designation has been obtained, the contestant may only fight in a "pro" designated event, and is not eligible to fight in any amateur sanctioned events.

(D) Over-age professional MMA contestants:

(1) A contestant over the age of 35 may participate in an MMA event if the age restriction is waived by a majority vote of the Commission for a specific fight. (This waiver will be considered valid for the duration of the current licensure period.)

(2) Must provide a recent video record of his/her last fight, or training bout and copies of his/her clear and precise amateur and professional record.

(3) Must provide an updated EKG report and a letter from the attending physician clearing them to fight. This does not preclude any other medical test that the Commission may deem important for the safety of the fighter.

(4) Must submit the appropriate application and fee.

(5) Must submit a completed annual physical signed by a medical doctor (MD) or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) along with blood work for the detection of Hepatitis A and B, and HIV.

20-27.04. Weigh in procedures.

(A) The weigh-ins must be conducted by an inspector or a representative of the South Carolina Athletic Commission at a place and time designated by the Commission.

(B) All contestants must weigh in. With the exception of super heavyweights contestants are limited to shorts, shirt and socks.

(C) The scale used for the official weigh-in shall be provided by the South Carolina Athletic Commission representative.

(D) Allowance in weight class is the weight difference permitted between contestants in two (2) different weight classes.

(1) There shall not be a difference of more than three (3) pounds between weight classes from lightweight up to, but not including, the welterweight class.

(2) There shall not be a difference of more than five (5) pounds between weight classes from welterweight up to, but not including, the super heavyweight class.

(3) Example: a fighter weighing one hundred thirty four (134) pounds in the bantamweight class shall not compete against an opponent who weighs more than one hundred thirty-seven (137) pounds in the featherweight class.

(4) Example: a fighter weighing one hundred eighty-four (184) pounds in the middle weight class shall not compete against an opponent who weighs more than one hundred eighty-nine (189) pounds in the light heavyweight class.

(5) Weight classifications, weight allowance between weight classes and glove sizes-

Weight class	Weights
Flyweight	116 to 125 lbs
Bantamweight	126 to 135 lbs
Featherweight	136 to 145 lbs

Lightweight	146 to 155 lbs
Welterweight	156 to 170 lbs
Middleweight	171 to 185 lbs
Light Heavyweight	186 to 205 lbs
Heavyweight	206 to 265 lbs
Super Heavyweight	over 265 lbs

20-27.05. Judging and scoring.

(A) All bouts will be scored by three (3) judges.

(B) The "Ten-Point Must System" will be the standard system of scoring a bout. The winner of the round will be awarded ten (10) points and the loser of the round will be awarded nine (9) points or less, except for the rare occasion of an even round, which is scored ten (10) to ten (10).

(C) Judges shall judge mixed martial art techniques, such as effective striking, effective grappling, and control of the opponent, effective aggressiveness and defense.

(1) Effective striking is judged by determining the total number of legal heavy strikes landed.

(2) Effective grappling is judged by considering the number of successful executions of a legal takedown and reversal. Factors to consider are take downs from the standing position to a mount position, passing the guard to the mount position, and bottom position fighters using an active threatening guard.

(3) Effective control is judged by determining who is dictating the pace, location and position of the bout. Factors to be considered are countering a grappler's attempt at a takedown by remaining standing and legally striking, take down an opponent to force a ground fight, creating threatening submission attempts, passing the guard to achieve a mount, and creating striking opportunities.

(4) Effective aggressiveness means moving forward and landing legal strikes.

(5) Effective defense means avoiding being struck, take down or reversals while countering with offensive strikes.

20-27.06. Fouls - intentional, unintentional, procedures and types of fouls.

(A) Procedures:

(1) Referee shall issue a warning. After the initial warning a penalty will be issued. The penalty may be a deduction of points or disqualification depending on the severity of the foul. Any points deducted for any foul must be deducted in the round which the foul occurred.

(2) The referee as soon as practical after the foul, shall call time and notify which contestant is being penalized and the total points the contestant is being penalized.

(3) If a bottom contestant commits a foul and in the referee's judgment is not in control, unless the top contestant is injured, the bout shall continue, so as not to jeopardize the top contestant's superior positioning at the time.

(a) The referee shall verbally notify the bottom contestant of the foul.

(b) When the round is over, the referee shall notify the judges and the inspector of the foul and the total point deduction.

(4) Only the referee can assess a foul and any point deductions. Judges shall not deduct points for what they interpret is a foul.

(5) Referee shall check the fouled contestant's condition to see if the contestant can still participate in the contest.

(6) Disqualification occurs when after any combination of three (3) fouls or if the referee determines the foul to be flagrant.

(B) Intentional foul:

(1) If an injury results that is severe enough to terminate the bout, the contestant causing the injury loses by disqualification.

(2) If an intentional foul causes an injury and the bout is allowed to continue a mandatory two (2) point penalty shall be assessed to the contestant committing the foul.

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(3) If an injury sustained by a contestant as a result of the intentional foul causes the contestant to be unable to continue at a subsequent point, the injured contestant shall win by a technical decision, if said contestant is ahead on the score cards. If the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of the stoppage, the bout shall be declared a technical draw.

(C) Unintentional foul:

(1) If a bout is stopped because of an unintentional foul, the referee shall determine whether the contestant who has been fouled can continue or not. If the contestant's chance of winning has not been seriously jeopardized as a result of the foul and if the foul did not involve concussive impact to the head of the contestant who has been fouled, the referee may order the bout continued after a recuperative interval of not more than five (5) minutes. Immediately after stopping the bout or at the end of the round the referee must immediately inform the inspector or Commission representative of their determination that the foul was accidental and unintentional.

(2) If the referee determines either from his/her observation or that of the ringside physician that the bout may not continue because of the injury from the unintentional foul the bout will be declared a no contest if the foul occurred:

(a) During the first two (2) rounds of a non-championship bout, or;

(b) During the first three (3) rounds of a championship bout;

(3) If the unintentional foul renders the contestant unable to continue the bout; or an injury from an intentional foul later becomes aggravated by fair blows and the referee stops bout because of the injury.

(a) After the completion of the second round in a non-championship bout or three (3) round bout;

(b) After the completion of the third round of a championship bout or five (5) round bout;

(c) The outcome shall be determined by scoring the completed rounds and the partial round in which the referee stopped the bout.

(4) A contestant shall not be declared the winner of a bout on the basis of his/her claim that the opponent fouled him/her unintentionally by hitting him/her in the groin. If after a recuperative interval of not more than five (5) minutes, a contestant is unwilling to continue because of the claim of being hit in the groin, the bout will be declared a no contest if the second round has not been completed in a three (3) round bout or the third round has not been completed in a five (5) round bout.

(D) Types of fouls in a mixed martial arts contest.

(1) Butting with the head.

(2) Eye gouging of any kind.

(3) Biting.

(4) Hair pulling.

(5) Fishhooking.

(6) Groin attacks of any kind.

(7) Putting a finger into any orifice or into any cut or laceration on an opponent.

(8) Small joint manipulation.

(9) Striking to the spine or back of head.

(10) Striking downward using the point of the elbow. (Arcing elbow strikes are permitted).

(11) Throat strikes of any kind, including, without limitation grabbing the trachea.

(12) Clawing, twisting or pinching the flesh.

(13) Grabbing the clavicle.

(14) Kicking the head of a grounded opponent.

(15) Kneeing the head of a grounded opponent.

(16) Stomping on a grounded opponent.

A contestant is considered grounded when his/her torso or three (3) points of his/her body are touching the canvas: (example: two (2) legs and a hand are touching the canvas. Applies to paragraphs (D)(14), (D)(15), and (D)(16) of the rule. Note: A downed opponent may kick up to all legal striking points of the body.

(17) Kicking to the kidney with the heel.

(18) Throwing an opponent out of the ring area or caged area.

(19) Holding the shorts or glove of an opponent.

(20) Spitting on an opponent.

(21) Engaging in any unsportsmanlike conduct that causes an injury to an opponent.

- (22) Holding the ropes or cage.
- (23) Using abusive language or illicit gestures in the ring area or caged area.
- (24) Attacking an opponent on or during the break.
- (25) Attacking an opponent who is under the care of the referee.
- (26) Attacking an opponent after the bell has sounded to end the round.
- (27) Flagrantly disregarding the instructions of the referee.
- (28) Timidity, including, without limitation, avoiding contact with an opponent, intentionally or consistently dropping the mouthpiece or faking an injury.
- (29) Interference from anyone working the corner or corner men leaving their area.
- (30) Any act in the judgment of the referee that is detrimental and places an opponent at a disadvantage.

20-27.07. Mouthpiece rule.

All contestants are required to wear a mouthpiece during competition. The round cannot begin without the mouthpiece. If the mouthpiece is dislodged during competition, the referee will call time and have the mouthpiece replaced at the first opportune moment, without interfering with the immediate action. The referee may deduct points if it is judged the mouthpiece is being purposely spit out.

20-27.08. Restarting fighters.

Following any medical time-out, or when a ring is being used and one or both opponents are under the ropes on the apron of the ring or in danger of falling from the apron of the ring, time will be called by the referee and both fighters will be positioned in the middle of the ring and assume the same position as the one prior to the time out.

20-27.09. Appearance and attire.

(A) Groin protectors.

(1) Male fighters must wear a professionally manufactured and Commission approved groin protector, which will protect them against injury from a foul blow. No homemade or non-professionally manufactured protective gear will be approved by the Commission.

(B) Female fighters must submit a negative pregnancy test taken within the past fourteen (14) days from a doctor or certified laboratory to the Athletic Commission a minimum of seven (7) days prior to the event.

(C) Each contestant shall wear mixed martial arts shorts, biking shorts, or kick boxing shorts. Shorts must be approved by the Commission or Commission representative.

(D) No GI's or shirts permitted.

(E) No shoes or protective padding for the feet or other areas of the body are permitted.

(F) No grappling shin guards.

(G) Absolutely "no" body grease, gels, balms or lotions may be applied. Vaseline may be applied to the facial area at cage side or ringside in the presence of an inspector, referee, or a person designated by the Commission. Any contestant applying anything prior to this could be penalized a point or disqualified.

(H) Taping of hands wrists and ankle is permitted.

(I) Neoprene joint supports only. No metal supports or hardened plastic or hardened synthetic device or equipment of any kind can ever be worn anywhere on the body during competition.

(J) Finger and toe nails must be trimmed.

(K) The Commission or Commission representative shall determine whether head or facial hair presents any hazard to the safety of the contestant or their opponent or will interfere with the supervision and conduct of the event. Facial hair may not be braided.

(L) May not wear any equipment that does not pass the inspector's or Commission's approval.

(M) No jewelry or body piercings may be worn.

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20-27.10. Glove specifications.

- (A) For professional mixed martial arts contests each contestant must wear gloves that weigh not less than four (4) ounces and not more than eight (8) ounces.
- (B) The gloves shall be supplied by the promoter.
- (C) Both contestants shall wear the same weight gloves.
- (D) Must be inspected and passed by the inspector, referee or Commission representative prior to starting the bout.

20-27.11. Specifications for bandages on hands for mixed martial art contestants.

- (A) In all weight classes, the bandages on each contestant's hands shall be restricted to soft gauze type cloth not more than fifteen (15) yards in length and two inches in width, held in place by not more than ten (10) feet of surgeon's tape, one (1) inch in width for each hand.
- (B) Surgeon's adhesive tape shall be placed directly on each hand for protection near the wrist. The tape may cross the back of the hand twice and extend to cover and protect the knuckles when the hand is clenched to make a fist.
- (C) The bandages shall be evenly distributed across the hand.
- (D) Bandages and tapes shall be placed on contestant's hands in the dressing room and must be inspected by the Commission or Commission representative.
- (E) The manager or chief second of the opponent may elect to be present when hands are being wrapped.
- (F) Under no circumstances are gloves to be placed on the hands of a contestant until checked by the inspector or Commission representative.

20-27.12. Requirements for a ring or caged area.

- (A) Mixed martial arts shall be held in a Commission approved ring or caged area.
- (B) The ring or caged area specifications for mixed martial arts must meet the following requirements:
 - (1) The cage must be of circular type dimensions or have as many as eight (8) equal sides;
 - (2) Two (2) sides opposite of each other must each have a designated color, one (1) side blue the opposite red;
 - (3) The ring or cage must be no smaller than twenty (20) feet wide or no larger than thirty-two (32) feet across;
 - (4) The floor of the ring or caged area must be padded with ensolite or another similar closed-cell foam, with at least a one (1) inch layer of foam padding, with a top covering of canvas, duck or similar material tightly stretched and laced to the platform of the ring or caged area. Material that tends to gather in lumps or ridges must not be used;
 - (5) The platform of the ring or caged area must not be more than four (4) feet above the floor of the building and must have suitable steps for use of the contestants;
 - (6) Ring posts must be made of metal, not more than six (6) inches in diameter, extending from the floor of the building to between five (5) and seven (7) feet above the floor of the ring or caged area, and must be properly padded in a manner approved by the Commission or Commission representative;
 - (7) The fencing used to enclose the caged area must be made of a material that will prevent a contestant from falling out or breaking through the caged area onto the floor of the building or onto spectators, including, without limitation, chain link fence coated with vinyl;
 - (8) Any metal portion on the interior of the ring or caged area must be covered and padded in a manner approved by the Commission or Commission representative and must not be abrasive to the contestants;
 - (9) The ring or caged area must have two (2) entrances. The entrance must be padded or covered and padded so that there is no exposed metal on the interior of the ring or caged area;
 - (10) There must not be any obstruction on any part of the fencing surrounding the area in which the contestants are competing;
 - (11) Any metal parts used to enforce the ring or caged area wall must be positioned as to not interfere with the safety of the contestants;

(12) A Commission approved ring stool must be placed in each corner.

(13) A plastic water bottle and a clean bucket must be placed in each corner.

20-27.13. Rubber gloves.

When a ring is used all seconds working in the corner must wear rubber gloves. When a caged area is used only the second who enters the caged area must wear rubber gloves.

20-27.14. Types of bout results.

(A) A mixed martial arts contest may end under the following results:

(1) Submission:

(a) Tap out: when a contestant physically uses his/her hand(s) to indicate that he/she no longer wishes to continue.

(b) Verbal tap out: when a contestant verbally announces to the referee that he/she does not wish to continue.

(2) Knockout "(KO)": failure to rise from the canvas.

(3) Technical knockout "(TKO)":

(a) Referee stops bout because a contestant can no longer defend himself/herself; or

(b) Ringside physician advises referee to stop bout; or

(c) When an injury as a result of a legal maneuver is severe enough to terminate the bout.

(4) Decision via scorecards:

(a) Unanimous: when all three (3) judges score the bout for the same contestant.

(b) Split decision: when two (2) judges score the bout for the same contestant and one (1) judge scores for the opponent.

(c) Majority decision: when two (2) judges score the bout for the same contestant and one (1) judge scores the bout a draw.

(5) Draws:

(a) Unanimous: when all three (3) judges score the bout a draw;

(b) Majority: when two (2) judges score the bout a draw;

(c) Split when all three (3) judges score it differently and the score total results in a draw.

(6) Disqualification: when an injury sustained during competition as a result of an intentional foul is severe enough to terminate the contestant.

(7) Forfeit: when a contestant fails to begin competition or prematurely ends the contest for reasons other than injury or indicating a tap out.

(8) Technical draw:

(a) When an injury sustained during competition, as a result of an intentional foul, causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the injured contestant is even or behind on the score cards at the time of the stoppage.

(b) When an injury sustained during competition, as a result of an unintentional foul, causes the injured contestant to be unable to continue and the sufficient number of rounds have been completed with the results of the scorecards being a draw.

(9) Technical decision: when the bout is prematurely stopped due to an injury and a contestant is leading on the scorecards.

(10) No contest: when a contestant is prematurely stopped due to accidental injury and a sufficient number of rounds have not been completed to render a decision via the scorecards.

20-27.15. Number of rounds required for mixed martial arts bouts and events.

(A) Professional Bouts:

(1) Professional bouts will be three (3) rounds of five (5) minutes each with a one (1) minute rest period that includes a fifteen (15) second warning signal.

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(2) Championship bouts will be five (5) rounds of five (5) minutes each with a one (1) minute rest period that includes a fifteen (15) second warning signal.

(B) Amateur bouts:

(1) Amateur bouts will be three (3) rounds of three (3) minutes each with a ninety (90) second rest period that includes a fifteen (15) second warning signal.

(2) Championship bouts will be five (5) rounds of three (3) minutes each with a one (1) minute rest period that includes a fifteen (15) second warning signal.

(C) A minimum number of twenty-four (24) rounds and eight (8) bouts must be scheduled. The Commission representative may grant a waiver of rounds.

20-27.16. Promoter's responsibilities.

(A) Bout agreements.

(1) The bout agreement between a promoter and a pro contestant must be executed and submitted to the South Carolina Athletic Commission 14 days prior to the event. (2) A bout agreement which provides that a contestant must fight exclusively for one promoter or at the option of the promoter is prohibited.

(B) Must have a permit for the event with contestant's name and weight, the opponent's name and weight, and number of rounds, submitted to the Commission prior to the Commission meeting. A contestant will not be permitted to fight unless approved by the Commission or its designee.

(C) Contestants' names, addresses, date of birth and social security number or last four digits of social security number, must be submitted no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the start of the event.

(D) Must have a separate divider between the ring or caged area and the fans. The divider must be approved by the inspector or Commission representative. If a solid barrier (divider) is not provided then a uniformed officer must be present at the ring or caged area.

(E) Must follow all ticket and tax rules as defined in the Code.

(F) Must have event insurance coverage in the amount of twenty-five thousand (\$25,000.00) dollars in case of injury and twenty-five thousand (\$25,000.00) dollars in case of a death. Contestants are not responsible for any deductible payments.

(G) No event shall start without the presence of a licensed medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine present at ringside or cage side and an ambulance with medical personnel on site. The doctor must be present a minimum of two (2) hours prior to the start of the event. Ambulance and medical personnel must be present a minimum of one (1) hour prior to the start of the event.

(H) The Commission representative of the South Carolina Athletic Commission shall assign all officials for all mixed martial arts events.

(I) Must supply the contestants' gloves to be used at the event. Gloves must be approved by the inspector or Commission representative.

(J) Have disposable garbage bags and biohazard bags in each dressing room and at ringside.

(K) Have cleaning solution used to clean blood and debris in the cage or ring. A solution with a minimum of ten (10%) percent bleach and ninety (90%) percent water is an acceptable solution.

(L) Must provide security with a minimum of one Commissioned police officer based upon the seating capacity for the particular event.

(M) All events must start on the time designated on permit or, after thirty (30) minutes, the promoter will be assessed a fine of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars for each thirty (30) minutes thereafter the event is late, unless said delay is due to a cause beyond the control of the promoter.

(N) New gloves never previously worn must be used for all title bouts. Gloves must be approved by Commission representative or inspector.

(O) Must comply with all rules and regulations relating to promoting events.

(P) Promoters must pay five (5%) percent of the gross gate receipts to the Commission within ten (10) days after the event. Failure to pay the required gate fees will result in the promoter being assessed a two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollar fine, and an additional two hundred fifty (\$250.00) dollar fine every ten (10) days thereafter.

20-27.17. Licensing.

(A) All contestants, managers and seconds shall be licensed pursuant to the South Carolina Athletic Commission laws, rules and regulations.

(B) All judges, referees, time keepers, physicians and inspectors shall be licensed as required by the Commission's rules and regulations.

20-27.18. Seconds duties when working in a corner.

(A) There may be no more than three (3) licensed seconds positioned in a designated area by the ring or cage or positioned in each corner of the ring. (B) No person other than the contestants and referee shall enter the ring or cage during a bout.

(C) The referee may, in his/her discretion, stop a contest if an unauthorized person enters the ring or cage during a round.

(D) Only one (1) second may enter the cage to tend to a fighter between rounds. In case of an open cut, a medical person, or cut person may also enter the cage.

(E) There shall not be any loud yelling or profanity from anyone working the corner.

(F) If a manager or second leaves the designated area the fighter will be disqualified.

(G) A fighter getting knocked out of a ring and onto the floor must get back into the ring within twenty (20) seconds without assistance from anyone working his/her corner.

(H) Any person violating any rule working the corner will be disqualified for the remainder of the event and suspended for a minimum of sixty (60) days. An appeal must be submitted in writing to the Athletic Commission office within ten (10) days from the date of said violation.

20-27.19. Disciplinary action.

(A) All contestants and participants may be disciplined for any violation of the South Carolina athletic laws, rules and regulations.

(B) The administrator, inspector or Commission representative shall hold a contestant's purse for any violation to include but not be limited to failing any drug test administered at the event.

(C) The administrator, inspector or Commission representative may order the purse of a mixed martial arts contestant withheld for failing to perform to the best of his/her ability. The contestant may appeal in writing to the administrator within ten (10) days of the event, when such action is taken. If no appeal is made the Commission will have a hearing to determine the amount of the purse that will be transferred to the department the next regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

(D) A contestant will be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year for participating in any mixed martial arts event not sanctioned and approved by the South Carolina Athletic Commission.

(E) If a licensed professional mixed martial arts contestant competes against an amateur he/she will be suspended for a period of not less than one (1) year or a maximum of two (2) years.

(F) After signing a contestant/promoter contract form, a contestant shall not enter into another contracted bout that is scheduled thirty (30) days prior to the previously signed contract. If the contestant participates in a bout within this thirty (30) day time period and as a result of participating in said event is not able to participate in the originally contracted event, said contestant shall be suspended for up to six (6) months and be assessed a fine of not more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars at the discretion of the South Carolina Athletic Commission. A contestant wishing to appeal a notice of suspension must do so via registered mail to the Commission within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the notice of suspension.

(G) When the contestant fails to appear in a contest in which he/she signed a bout agreement to appear, he/she shall be suspended for not more than six (6) months. The contestant must produce a valid certificate from a physician and approved by the administrator or Commission representative in the case of any physical disability. Any contestant who files a certificate from a physician stating he/she is unable to fulfill a bout agreement because of physical disability, shall be immediately given a medical suspension for a period of sixty (60) days and must submit a medical clearance or fulfill his/her bout agreement with the same opponent or a suitable substitute within the sixty (60) day suspension period. The administrator or Commission

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representative may remove any suspension if the contestant is released from the bout agreement by mutual agreement between the contestant and promoter.

(H) A contestant who fails to make the required weight listed on the contestant/promoter contract form, which results in the bout being cancelled, the contestant will be suspended for up to six (6) months and assessed a fine to be determined by the administrator or South Carolina Athletic Commission. A contestant wishing to appeal a notice of suspension must do so via registered mail to the Commission within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the notice of suspension.

(I) If after the weigh-in a contestant fails to honor the contestant/promoter bout contract by not appearing for the bout, or refuses to compete, the contestant shall be suspended for up to twelve (12) months and assessed a fine to be determined by the administrator or Commission representative. A contestant wishing to appeal a notice of suspension must do so via registered mail to the Commission within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of the notice of suspension.

(J) A contestant or promoter will be suspended indefinitely, until payment is made in full of any judgment awarded by a court of law that is presented to the South Carolina Athletic Commission for any violations.

(K) A contestant, manager, trainer, or any representative of the contestant, shall not verbally harass any official representing the South Carolina Athletic Commission, before, during, or after any event regulated by the South Carolina Athletic Commission. This includes, but is not limited, to an inspector, referee, judge, timekeeper, physician, Commission member, or anyone assigned by, or representing the South Carolina Athletic Commission. Any contestant or person representing the contestant violating this rule will cause them or the contestant to be suspended for a period no longer than one (1) year. The suspension must be appealed within thirty (30) days after receiving notice from the Commission; otherwise, the contestant forfeits his/her right to appeal after said thirty (30) day period.

(L) A contestant, manager, trainer, or any representative of the contestant, shall not physically abuse any official representing the South Carolina Athletic Commission, before, during or after any event regulated by the South Carolina Athletic Commission. This includes, but is not limited to, an inspector, referee, judge, timekeeper, physician, Commission member, or anyone assigned by, or representing the South Carolina Athletic Commission. Any contestant or person representing the contestant violating this rule will cause them or the contestant to be suspended indefinitely. The suspension must be appealed within thirty (30) days after receiving notice from the Commission; otherwise, the contestant forfeits his/her right to appeal after said thirty (30) day period.

20-27.20. Suspensions and mandatory rest period.

(A) Sixty (60) day suspension for a knockout "KO".

(B) Thirty (30) day suspension for a technical knockout "TKO".

(1) Referee stoppage from submission or choke hold prior to verbal commitment or tap out.

(2) Referee stoppage from strikes prior to verbal commitment or tap out.

(C) Throwing the mouthpiece into the audience during or after the event will result in a ninety (90) day suspension. This would be in addition to any other suspension that the contestant may have received.

(D) Physician's suspension:

(1) Whatever length of time the physician designates after the post fight check-up that will allow sufficient time for the contestant to be physically able to compete.

(2) Until any medical requirements issued by a physician are successfully submitted and approved for release by the administrator.

(3) Failure to report or comply with post fight examination by the attending physician or his/her representative will result in a minimum suspension of ninety (90) days.

(E) Without a release from the administrator or Commission representative a contestant cannot compete until seven (7) days have elapsed from his/her last bout. The seven (7) day period starts the day following the event in which he/she competed.

(F) If listed on suspension lists or any other suspension list recognized by the South Carolina Athletic Commission.

20-27.21. Medical requirements for mixed martial arts contestants.

Professional and amateur mixed martial arts contestants must produce:

- (A) Negative HIV
- (B) Negative hepatitis B surface antigen
- (C) Negative hepatitis C antibody
- (D) Procedures to complete when failing hepatitis B surface antigen test:
 - (1) Must pass a hepatitis B "PCR" quantitative test.
 - (2) The quantitative limit must be within permissible limits according to the laboratory where test was administered.
 - (3) Test and results must have been taken within two (2) weeks of the event.

The following apply to professional and amateur mixed martial arts contestants:

- (E) The contestant must submit a CAT scan (CT) or MRI examination to the Commission at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to being licensed when a contestant:
 - (1) Has lost three (3) bouts in a row by KO or TKO.
 - (2) Has lost five (5) bouts in a row.
 - (3) Has an extensive losing record.
- (F) The Commission will not issue a license or renew any applicant's license for a contestant who is found to be blind in one eye or whose vision in one eye is so poor that an ophthalmologist, optometrist, or physician recommends that a license not be granted. This rule is effective regardless of how good the vision of the contestant may be in the other eye. An ophthalmologist's eye exam report performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist must be submitted to the Commission as part of his/her medical records prior to competing in an event.
- (G) The Commission will not issue or renew the license of any applicant who wishes to compete in any sport regulated by the South Carolina Athletic Commission who has suffered from any type of cerebral hemorrhage.

20-27.22. Conduct when contestants enter the ring or caged area.

- (A) No Contestant or promoter may display any type of entrance theme that includes music, video, or any type of physical display that contains any profanity or any derogatory ethnic remarks. Anyone violating this rule may be suspended for up to six (6) months.

20-27.23. Fees.

- (A) License fees for participants shall be as follows:

(1) Promoter	\$100
(2) Event fee	\$250
(3) Manager	\$100
(4) Matchmaker	\$100
(5) Trainer	\$100
(6) Judge	\$50
(7) Referee	\$50
(8) Second	\$50
(9) Promoter Representative	\$25
(10) Timekeeper	\$25
(11) Announcer	\$25
(12) Fighter	\$25

Fiscal Impact Statement:

There will be no cost incurred by the State or any of its political subdivisions.